

**DRAFT**

March 22, 2010

Dr. Judith Ackerman, Provost Montgomery College, Rockville Campus

Re: Your letter of January 22, 2010 to Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio

Dear Dr Ackerman,

Thank you for your letter of January 22. The Mayor and Council also recognize the long-standing good relationships between the College and the City of Rockville and we also wish to keep them that way. However, Mayor and Council would like to respond to points in your letter.

The problem with groups of smokers and with student behavior on Princeton Place began in August 2008 immediately and directly following the implementation of the Tobacco Free Campus policy by Montgomery College. Prior to that, the Princeton Place residents documented a parking problem.

The various alternatives that have been explored over the past months have not dealt with the root cause of the issue which is the Tobacco Free Policy. The refusal of Montgomery College to modify its policy contributed to the rapidly worsening situation in 2008 and hinders resolution of the problem today.

The implementation of the Tobacco Free Campus policy externalized a campus issue onto the adjoining College Gardens and Plymouth Woods neighborhood. With the current implementation of the Tobacco-Free policy, fence open or fence closed, separate groups of people in Plymouth Woods and College Gardens are severely and negatively impacted. The College forced neighbors into a zero-sum game.

Montgomery College should own its decision to close the fence and not place the onus for resolution solely on neighbors who have been forced into opposing camps. Montgomery College should consider, in good faith, any reasonable proposal to re-open the fence, including modifying its tobacco policy.

The Montgomery College Campus is part of Rockville. This includes the fact that it is a bus terminus for its area in the City. The College should restore the needed and historic pedestrian access for its near neighbors including handicapped individuals who cannot drive.

Yours Sincerely,  
The Mayor and Council of Rockville

Signatures